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8  
9 **BEFORE THE**  
**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No.

*2020-173*

13 **LA CHEISA SHERELL BELL**  
14 **P.O. Box 6318**  
**North Hollywood, CA 91603**

**ACCUSATION**

15 **Registered Nurse License No. 647596**  
16 **Nurse Practitioner Certificate No. 20475**  
17 **Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Certificate**  
**No. 20475**

18 Respondent.

19  
20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Joseph L. Morris, PhD, MSN, RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his  
22 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of  
23 Consumer Affairs.

24 2. On or about November 5, 2004, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered  
25 Nurse License Number 647596 to La Cheisa Sherell Bell (Respondent). The Registered Nurse  
26 License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will  
27 expire on August 31, 2020, unless renewed.

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3. On or about December 6, 2010, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Nurse Practitioner Certificate Number 20475 to Respondent. The Nurse Practitioner Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2020, unless renewed.

4. On or about August 1, 2011, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Certificate Number 20475 to Respondent. The Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2020, unless renewed.

## JURISDICTION

5. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

6. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

7. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811(b) of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

## STATUTORY PROVISIONS

8. Section 2761 of the Code states:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions.

...

## **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443, states:

As used in Section 2761 of the code, "incompetence" means the lack of possession of or the failure to exercise that degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a competent registered nurse as described in Section 1443.5.

10. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443.5 states:

A registered nurse shall be considered to be competent when he/she consistently demonstrates the ability to transfer scientific knowledge from social, biological and physical sciences in applying the nursing process, as follows:

(1) Formulates a nursing diagnosis through observation of the client's physical condition and behavior, and through interpretation of information obtained from the client and others, including the health team.

(2) Formulates a care plan, in collaboration with the client, which ensures that direct and indirect nursing care services provide for the client's safety, comfort, hygiene, and protection, and for disease prevention and restorative measures.

(3) Performs skills essential to the kind of nursing action to be taken, explains the health treatment to the client and family and teaches the client and family how to care for the client's health needs.

(4) Delegates tasks to subordinates based on the legal scopes of practice of the subordinates and on the preparation and capability needed in the tasks to be delegated, and effectively supervises nursing care being given by subordinates.

(5) Evaluates the effectiveness of the care plan through observation of the client's physical condition and behavior, signs and symptoms of illness, and reactions to treatment and through communication with the client and health team members, and modifies the plan as needed.

(6) Acts as the client's advocate, as circumstances require, by initiating action to improve health care or to change decisions or activities which are against the interests or wishes of the client, and by giving the client the opportunity to make informed decisions about health care before it is provided.

## **COST RECOVERY**

11. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

1 **DEFINITIONS**

2 12. Levothyroxine is a thyroid medicine that replaces a hormone normally produced by  
3 your thyroid gland to regulate the body's energy and metabolism. Levothyroxine is given when  
4 your thyroid does not produce enough of this hormone on its own. Levothyroxine is used to treat  
5 hypothyroidism (low thyroid hormone).

6 13. Hypothyroidism is called underactive thyroid disease and your thyroid gland does not  
7 make enough thyroid hormone.

8 14. Hyperthyroidism is a condition in which your thyroid gland produces too much of the  
9 hormone thyroxine and can accelerate the body's metabolism significantly, causing sudden  
10 weight loss, a rapid or irregular heartbeat, sweating, and nervousness

11 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

12 15. Respondent worked at Valley Community healthcare in 2016 and 2017.

13 16. In August and September 2017, Respondent diagnosed Patient 1 with  
14 *Hyperthyroidism*. However, Respondent prescribed a medication Levothyroxine used to treat  
15 *Hypothyroidism* to the patient.

16 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

17 (Incompetence)

18 17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2761(a)(1) in that she  
19 displayed incompetence in carrying out her usual licensed nursing functions by misinterpreting  
20 laboratory results and failing to recognize an incongruent patient presentation, with the supposed  
21 diagnosis of Hypothyroidism The circumstances are more particularly set forth in paragraphs 15-  
22 16 above, which are incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

23 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

24 (Unprofessional Conduct)

25 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2761(a)(1) in that she  
26 displayed unprofessional conduct in carrying out her usual licensed nursing functions as set forth  
27 more fully above in paragraphs 15 through 17.

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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 647596, issued to La Cheisa Sherell Bell;

2. Revoking or suspending Nurse Practitioner Certificate Number 20475, issued to La Cheisa Sherell Bell;

3. Revoking or suspending Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Certificate Number 20475, issued to La Cheisa Sherell Bell;

4. Ordering La Cheisa Sherell Bell to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,

5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED:

*August 23, 2019* *Joseph L. Morris*

JOSEPH L. MORRIS, PHD, MSN, RN  
Executive Officer  
Board of Registered Nursing  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
Complainant

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